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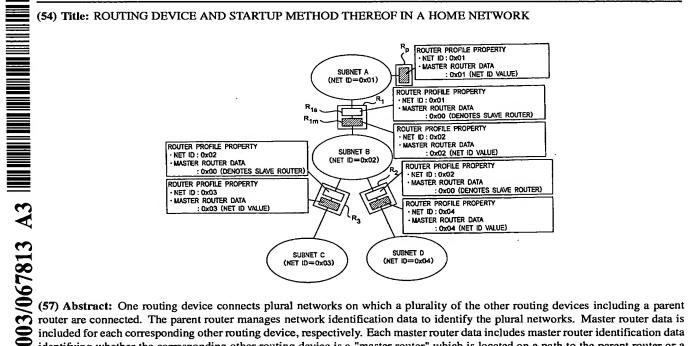
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[Continued on next page]

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(54) Title: ROUTING DEVICE AND STARTUP METHOD THEREOF IN A HOME NETWORK



included for each corresponding other routing device, respectively. Each master router data includes master router identification data identifying whether the corresponding other routing device is a "master router" which is located on a path to the parent router or a "slave router" which is a routing device other than the master router, and network identification data identifying a network to which the corresponding other routing device connects. Upon startup of the one routing device, the master router data is acquired from the other routing devices on the networks to which the one routing device connects. It is determined whether a router function of the one routing device is enabled based on the acquired master router data.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/JP 03/00242 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 H04L12/28 H04L12/56 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 HO4L Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. -Citation of document, with Indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages 1 - 14EP 1 039 725 A (HITACHI LTD) X 27 September 2000 (2000-09-27) abstract column 3, line 49 -column 4, line 9 column 22, line 44 - line 51 paragraph '0057! paragraph '0058! figure 1 US 6 052 736 A (VASHAW BARTON CLARK ET 1 - 14Α AL) 18 April 2000 (2000-04-18) abstract column 3, line 3 - line 34 column 4, line 55 - line 67 χ Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Special categories of cited documents : "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to 'L' document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed Invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 29/09/2003 4 September 2003 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA

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